

From: rockybrook@juno.com@inetgw
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/17/02 9:56pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

2980 West Buno Road
Milford, Michigan 48380

January 17, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
US Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

I am writing to express my opinions regarding the Microsoft antitrust case. As a supporter of Microsoft and an American taxpayer, I would like this case to be concluded.

Under the terms of the agreement, Microsoft has agreed to changes that make antitrust precedent. The company has agreed to document and disclose for use by its competitors various interfaces that are internal to Windows operating systems products. This means that Microsoft has more or less opened its inventions for the competition to use as a platform to launch their own competing products. This is most apparent in Microsoft's decision to grant computer makers and software engineers broad new rights to configure Windows in order to promote non-Microsoft products that compete with programs included within Windows.

The settlement is extensive in the sense that it lays out methods of preventing and handling future dilemmas. A technical oversight committee will ensure that Microsoft complies with the terms and conditions of the settlement, and competitors will be allowed to sue Microsoft directly if they feel they've been treated unfairly. It appears to me that the issues that brought about the case have been addressed. This case has dragged on for three years, and may drag on more if those that will never rest until Microsoft is broken up, have their way. I just want to remind you of the devastation that would ensue if standardization and operability were lost, not to mention the stalling of innovation. I hope that you will judge this case by its merits, and not the depths of lobbyists' pockets.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my thoughts.

Sincerely,

Linda Balsley